

THE GATEWAY

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Archbishop Ncube blasts Zimbabwean president

COSANNA PRISTON
Senior News Editor

The wavering figure seated on a hotel-room couch doesn't present the image of a voice for a nation, but heralded as such by many Zimbabweans, any lesser description would deny them their hope for a life beyond Mugabe.

Straining to hear his first words, I'm distracted by cream-coloured socks made naked by his overly short pants and his low-buttoned cardigan stuffed clumsily under his papal jacket.

The man is clearly a priest with his white collar and a large cross weighing on his chest, but aesthetically one would never guess his high position. Pius Ncube is the Archbishop of Bulawayo, the second largest city in Zimbabwe.

Arriving in Canada on invitation from the Edmonton Zimbabwean community and the University of Alberta, Ncube is now traveling across the country, attracting attention to his cause: a fight against Robert Mugabe, the president of Zimbabwe.

Ncube may be the voice of change many think the country needs. Described as the "rebel priest" by Brian Kagoro, a Zimbabwean constitutional lawyer, Ncube has been extremely vocal against Mugabe, calling him, among other things, a liar and a dictator.

"He is a convicted murderer who has absolutely no heart, no feeling and no sense of shame," said Ncube at a small gathering last Wednesday night at the International Centre, prefacing his 23 September lecture to the University community.

The criticism should not come as a shock.

Mugabe is internationally accused of rigging the presidential elections in 2002, destroying the Zimbabwean economy and educational system, and deliberately starving his people.

PLEASE SEE NCUBE • PAGE 3



JESSE WHITEHEAD

THE WAITING GAME Pius Ncube provides hope for a country waiting for a political change and an end to suffering.

Saul urges partisan citizenship

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
News Writer

Internationally recognized as a celebrated novelist and essayist, John Ralston Saul spoke Saturday at the Citadel, emphasizing the importance of youth political involvement for the preservation of Canadian democracy.

Saul, who was in Edmonton Saturday lecturing for the Muttart Foundation Lecture, is a strong advocate for having a more open forum for political debate in Canada.

"What we need is more public debate, more disagreement, more people speaking up. I've always believed in that and my whole life has been built around that," Saul said.

Born in Ottawa to an officer in the Canadian army and his English war bride, Saul grew up and was educated in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario. He went on to earn an honours BA in political science at McGill University in 1969 and a PhD in economics and political science at King's College, University of London in 1972.

"What we need is more public debate, more disagreement, more people speaking up. I've always believed in that and my whole life has been built around that."

JOHN RALSTON SAUL,
CANADIAN AUTHOR

Saul shares his fame as a writer with his wife, Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson, and has been well received and highly successful internationally, having published and sold books translated into many languages.

Saul's *Reflections of a Starnes Twin* (1997), discussing the character of Canada as unique from both the United States and Europe, launched national debate and won him a second Gordon Montador Award for the best Canadian non-fiction on social issues.

Today, Saul has been the grateful recipient of 13 honorary doctorates and in 1995 was the only Canadian on the *Utne Reader's* list of "100 Visionaries Who Could Change Your Life," as well as being named Canadian Humanist of the Year.

However, despite his literary success and numerous awards, Saul doesn't consider himself scholastic.

PLEASE SEE SAUL • PAGE 3

Fundrive hits airwaves for CJSR 20th anniversary

MARIE BROEMBLING
News Writer

CJSR's annual Fundrive kicks off this week, coinciding with the U of A campus radio station's 20th year on the FM dial.

This year the fundraiser for the campus non-profit station will take place from 1 to 10 October. CJSR, which has a listening audience of approximately 20 000, is run by six paid staff and over 200 volunteers. As the station is dependent on community donations, they hope to raise \$115 000 this year from 1500 donors.

"The best part about the Fundrive,

though, is not about how much money you are making, but it is a chance for the listeners to call up a DJ and say, 'Hey, thanks for everything you've done over the last year. I really enjoy your show.' You know, whatever comments about the station, the program, or the programmer, and it's a valuable chance to get that feedback," said Charlotte Bourne, CJSR's administration manager.

The Fundrive has been held annually since 1985, when it raised more than \$6000 and helped keep the new FM station on the air.

Since then, it has continued in that role, preventing possible shutdowns

"To me, it's the most exciting week of programming that we have throughout the year just because everybody's trying so hard to do something good or funny or entertaining."

MICK SLEEPER,
CJSR DJ

of the station in 1992 and 2001.

The total revenues continue to increase each year, according to Mick SLEEPER, a CJSR DJ and designer of the 20th anniversary CJSR website.

"On the surface it sounds like ten days of DJs saying 'Please give us money.' To me, it's the most exciting week of programming that we have throughout the year just because everybody's trying so hard to do something good or funny or entertaining," said SLEEPER.

DJs traditionally invite special guests on air and give out prizes themselves to entice listeners to donate.

PLEASE SEE CJSR • PAGE 2

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10 Have you ever heard of a little sporting event called "The Olympics"? Well, when it took place last month, A couple of U of A-type folk were there. Curious? Go read the feature.

From the archives

The U of A considered brewing beer for students after being approached by Molson. Dubbed "the Beer Project," the student-driven scheme was meant to create "a beer for U of A students, brewed by U of A students," explained the president of the U of A Marketing Association. Molson hoped to learn more about the student demographic, and it was thought that students could potentially learn about marketing, and brewing from working with the company. Stew McDonough, SU vice-president (external) didn't anticipate any ill effects of the collaboration. He thought it was a really good marketing idea for Molson and didn't predict any negative impact on the student population.

1997



15 After spending years in the basement, the Golden Bears football squad is undefeated and on top of the world or the country at any rate. Up to Sports for more. Do it!

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colophon

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CJSR seeks community involvement

CJSR • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Additionally, donors will be entered in a grand prize draw, which has several prizes including a weekend ski trip for two to Panorama and a custom-made bike from Red Bike.

Community involvement is a major part of the Fundrive. Local businesses have pledged over \$17 000 in prize money for even more to be awarded to individuals who donate.

"One of the things I like most about Fundrive is how local businesses get behind us. The listeners will not only be getting the usual CJSR stuff, but also a gift certificate for here, a free entrée from there," Sleeper explained.

In addition, the money raised, the feedback from the event helps the station to strengthen their programs and add to their eclectic mix, maintaining their status as an independent alternative to mainstream commercial radio stations, he added. Even during the week, CJSR will provide special programming and concerts around the city.

"That's why CJSR is so critical: because you have the community access here where people off the street can come in and help out and also because it is different from what you're hearing everywhere else," said Broume.

Boreal forests in trouble, says speaker

HANNA NASH
New Writer

Canada's boreal forest is vanishing faster than people think and could cause numerous ecological problems for Canada if the problems aren't soon addressed, said the chairman of Global Forest Watch, Peter Lee.

Lee's lecture last Thursday, "Trouble in the Woods: Canada's Boreal Forest," featured a broad overview of the current state of Canada's boreal forests. Because the current state of the forests is comparatively better than those worldwide, Canadians are generally unconcerned, Lee said.

"The attitude is we have more of our original forest coverage than any other country, so why worry?" he said.

However, the lack of aggressive protection isn't surprising. In a study conducted two years ago by Global Forest Watch, Lee discovered that most Canadians don't have a clear understanding of the boreal forest.

"Many Canadians don't know what the boreal is. Do you know what they called it? 'The bush.' When you go across from Newfoundland to the prairie provinces, the most common word that Canadians use to refer to this vast ecosystem is 'the bush.'"

Lee emphasized the importance of the boreal forest to the world's ecosystem, stating that the recent losses in Haiti due to Hurricane Jeanne could have been prevented.

"Haiti is chronically vulnerable to

flooding and mudslides because of widespread deforestation. Haiti has lost a lot of boreal, going from 10 000 hectares to 3000 hectares of forest in the last ten years," explained Lee.

Although Haiti cannot be fairly compared to Canada, as Canada is regarded as a world leader for managing its forests, Lee encourages Canadians to preserve as much of the boreal forest as they can.

But according to Lee, the support received for the protection of Canada's boreal forest is not as great as it could be—they receive little public attention. In addition, influences such as the amount of government involvement have decreased dramatically,

while those of temperature and global trade have increased.

"We need improved government legislation that includes proper oversight, management, and enforcement. We need to ensure that there's a proper system protecting the biological hotspots before they're allocated for industrial uses, which rarely if ever occurs across Canada's boreal."

There needs to be a more active process of conserving Canada's boreal forest, Lee said. He strongly encouraged Canadians to address the losses of the boreal forest in order to protect the Canadian environment from the undesirable consequences which have affected other countries.



KEEP CANADA GREEN Peter Lee urges Canadians to protect their "bush."

STREETERS

The Montréal Expos have been sold to the US and are going to become the Washington Senators.

What do you think about the Expos moving?



Erin Park
Pre-vet I



Taj Kaler
Science III



Diane Barker
Science IV



Nick Warner
Grad Studies III

Actually, this year I went to the opening games of the Expos, and I had a lot of fun. And it was great because it was one of the last things families can go to, because it's \$10 a ticket... and I think that's something that's being lost in professional sports... I think it's sad because it was a really great part of the city.

I don't really care about baseball. It doesn't really matter to me. [I prefer] basketball... I think Montréal should get a basketball team.

I had no idea that occurred. I can't say I care that much—isn't that horrible? I have a feeling that probably down there they're probably a lot more torn about it. Here in Alberta it's like, "Whatever, we don't have Oilers for a year, get over it."

I think it's ludicrous... that of the two Canadian teams that we have left of baseball, one's leaving. So, soon we might have no teams left in baseball because there's no fan support, and I don't know if that's due to the economic issues—that the States have more money and Canada doesn't have the funds to support the athletes.

Compiled and photographed by Mary Hulbert and Robin Collum

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Zimbabwean 'enemy of the state' speaks out in Edmonton

NCUBE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"That overriding of human rights, it hurts me, it's an injustice. I can tolerate human weakness and human failure; I cannot tolerate injustice and gross violation of human rights," Ncube says, thumping his hand firmly on a table in his hotel room.

"In Zimbabwe right now there's a lot of fear because of these injustices. The people are scared. They cannot talk because the state owns [them]. Mugabe believes that Zimbabwe is his property, and that the people of Zimbabwe are his property, and that they must dance to his tune."

Born in a rural area of Zimbabwe, Ncube grew up with his brother, two sisters, and his peasant parents working as subsistence farmers. He reflects back on that time with fondness. Under the colonial rule, Ncube says his family lived happily. Though life wasn't easy, everyone had enough to eat and drink, the economy was good, and life was affordable.

"Sometimes it was a bit hard. I remember, we had to look after cattle and these cattle would get lost, and we had to look for them sometimes for days and days. You'd get pricked by thorns, you grow thirsty, and you are away from home for a day or two, far away, and you are walking the whole time. So a lot of the days it often be pretty hard, but generally it was a happy, happy time."

At 14, while attending a Catholic school, Ncube says he realized the importance of God. Influenced by two deeply religious aunts, he became a Catholic. Strangely enough, his mother was a protestant, but Ncube explains he always had support from his parents because in Africa, it's not

uncommon to find several churches in one family.

By 1973, Ncube was an ordained priest and well on his way to becoming a life-long activist. By the time he was appointed Archbishop in 1997, he had worked in numerous rural missions and town parishes, completed a Masters of Theology in Rome, and was heavily involved in the increasingly turbulent politics of Zimbabwe.

"That overriding of human rights, it hurts me, it's an injustice.

I can tolerate human weakness, and human failure; I cannot tolerate injustice and gross violation of human rights."

PIUS NCUBE,
ZIMBABWEAN ARCHBISHOP

"Life is worse off today than under the white government. It's four times worse, what we are in now," says Ncube, rage lacing his words.

"I felt that I had a duty to speak up. We cannot be quiet and silent about the evil things that Mugabe is doing to the people of Zimbabwe," he says. "Our people are poor and simple and defenseless."

But his vocal stance has come at a price. Twice, the police have tried to arrest him; his phone calls and e-mails are monitored; government

agents are constantly around making him "feel inconvenient"; and the state-controlled press refuses to grant him coverage, going out of their way to exclude him from photos and constantly labeling him in their articles.

"I've been demonized: I'm gay, I'm a rapist, I've fathered two children with nuns but yet I've never seen those children. I seem to be bisexual," he jokes, a rare smile crossing his face.

"I think I'm more on the gay side, though," he quips.

Despite the constant harassment, Ncube refuses to stand down. Citing Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Oscar Romero as inspiration, the Archbishop also spends two hours a day in prayer to gain strength from God, and isn't without other support. He receives countless letters from clergy, journalists and refugees from around the world, all of whom help him to remain strong in his fight, as he is adamant he will not back down. Though there is no end in sight, Ncube pledges to keep on fighting.

"Anyone who points out that justice must be done, that person is an enemy of the state. I'm not just a yes-man to a bully just like that. I'm not going to be hoodwinked to say, 'Yes, President, what you're doing is wonderful,' when he's holding the whole country to ransom," Ncube says, his voice rising in anger.

"I think I have a right cause in defending the common man who is suffering under 500 per cent inflation, under 80 per cent unemployment, under poverty day to night, where 85 per cent of the people cannot afford life anymore. These people must be defended and it is my duty as a churchman to defend them."

Youth more involved than ever, says Saul

SAUL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I'm not an academic, never have been," Saul clarifies.

Along with accompanying Clarkson on her tours of duty, Saul takes time to do his own volunteer work for numerous non-profit organizations and considers giving back to the community an important aspect of his life.

"I've always tried to put about 30 to 50 per cent of my life into doing unpaid activity," Saul said.

Despite the increase in voter apathy among Canadian youth, Saul believes it is not due to a decline in the public involvement of citizens.

"Even though the voter participation rates are going down, the actual involvement of the younger citizens has never been higher."

"It's just they're not joining political parties. They're in NGOs, they're in volunteer organizations; we've never seen anything like this," he said.

While Saul recognizes the importance of apolitical volunteer activity, he worries about the consequences if youth don't become more partisan.

"If youth don't actually go into mainstream politics by joining parties, by starting parties, then we [will] have a big problem."

According to Saul, there needs to be equivalent involvement in politics as there is in volunteer organizations in order to maintain a democracy based on a representation of popular beliefs.

"A democracy is not, 'We have ideas and they're the politicians'; it's not supposed to be a specialized group. Unless we're in an aristocratically



NICK WESSE

LET'S TALK POLITICS John Ralston Saul encourages youth to get involved.

based society, it's supposed to be citizens," Saul remarked.

Saul considers current Canadian politics to be at a "difficult moment," as the lack of citizen involvement in

politics means a lack of voice in the democratic process.

"I believe in the power of the back-bench MP; it is much greater than people certainly think," Saul asserted.

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Trent students kick out Zoom Media

SARAH LAMBLE
Author

PETERBOROUGH (CUP)—Students are declaring victory in their fight against corporate advertising on campus after a controversial agreement with Zoom Media was abandoned at Trent University.

For the first time in four years, Trent students are returning to a campus free from Zoom advertisements. The corporate ads that formerly appeared in washroom stalls, cafeterias and hallways have been removed and no new contract is being pursued.

Representatives of Students for Ad-Free Education, a working group of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group, which has been fighting the ads since they first arrived at Trent, say they are pleased the ads are no longer on campus.

"Zoom is gone, and it's a terrific victory in the fight against commercialization of public education," said member Alyssa Paxton.

Paxton attributes the contract's termination to the high level of graffiti and damages leveled at the ads.

"It shows that direct action can have concrete results," she commented.

Shantel Ivits, vice-president of the Trent Central Student Association (CSA), agreed.

"I applaud the success of those students taking a stand against the corporate invasion of our university campus. For Trent, removing Zoom Media is a key battle in the larger war."

Trent University entered into a contract with Zoom in spring 2000, despite minimal consultation with students and strong warnings from CSA officials.

Under the original contract, Trent

was to receive about \$18 000 each year in rent for the space to house 162 ads.

Within the first week of the contract, ads were spray-painted, smashed and forcibly removed by individuals opposing advertising on campus. Only two months into the contract, Crime Stoppers reported over \$6000 worth of damage had been done to the ads. As a result, Zoom did not proceed to phase two of the ad campaign. Only 50 per cent of the originally projected number of ads were ever installed on campus.

"Zoom is gone, and it's a terrific victory in the fight against commercialization of public education."

ALYSSA PAXTON,
STUDENTS FOR AD FREE EDUCATION

Within six months, the Trent CSA and all college cabinets voted in favour of the termination of the contract, and Trent administrators admitted the deal was a debacle. Despite attempts to officially withdraw from the deal, the administration noted the contract contained no escape clause for the University, ultimately leaving termination up to Zoom Media.

Responding to this legal bind, students launched an organized graffiti campaign against Zoom. Since the contract stipulated costs incurred from vandalism and damages were the responsibility of the company, many students felt that attacking the ads directly would reduce profits and force Zoom to withdraw from campus.

"We tried going through official

channels," said one ad-buster who asked to remain anonymous.

"But because the contract was legally binding, we had to force Zoom out by hitting them where it hurts: the bottom line."

The graffiti campaign had such an impact that in March 2002 Zoom Media representative Emma Blackburn met with members of Students for Ad-Free Education to discuss the situation. While she refused to give specific figures, Blackburn admitted the company was losing money on the deal.

Insisting that Zoom would not revoke the contract, Blackburn tried to strike a compromise: she offered to create a "pee-free zone"—at least one stall that would be advertisement-free in every washroom—if working group members "would call off the sanimals."

The group, which does not officially endorse vandalism, declined, stating it had no control over the actions of individual students.

Then without warning last fall, Zoom removed the majority of ads on campus. When contacted at the time, a representative from Zoom informed the working group that the company was only removing the ads on a temporary basis in order to "review operations costs and revenues."

With the ads gone, anti-corporate activists are looking to turn their energies elsewhere.

"There are still gains to be made," said Ivits.

For instance, many students' loans wouldn't be so burdensome if University services weren't dominated by for-profit corporations, like Follet and Aramark. I personally hope that they're not to go."

Zoom Media could not be reached for comment.

Anti-gay marriage book rushed to press

SARAH COLGROVE
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP)—When the Supreme Court opens its debate on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage on 6 October, McGill University professors Margaret Somerville and Douglas Farrow aim to have their say.

McGill-Queen's University Press rushed their mouthpiece, *Divorcing Marriage*, a book opposing same-sex marriage, to publication just in time to be considered by the court.

"Something important is going on, and we want to have an impact," said Somerville, acting director of the McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law, and contributor to the book. "We wanted to get it out there while it was relevant—or what's the point?"

Divorcing Marriage is a collection of essays by academics that "unveils the dangers of Canada's new social experiment." Contributors explore the "run-away romanticism" that has brought Canada to this point, and the consequences that will follow.

The book is published on the heels of high-court decisions in the Yukon, Ontario, Québec, Manitoba, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia ruling that forbidding same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. The Supreme Court will begin its deliberations in October, and justices will only consider arguments submitted by that time.

Divorcing Marriage, however, challenges the notion that courts should have jurisdiction over an institution as old and central to our civilization as marriage.

Both Farrow's and Somerville's articles focus on the rights of children, which they feel have been unduly

neglected by debates on the merits of gay and lesbian marriage.

The book was published in a matter of weeks—a very short time for a university press—in order to meet the Supreme Court deadline for submissions. The publishing house does not regard the rush as indicating any political agenda on its part.

"To redefine marriage to include homosexual unions, under which biological parenting is impossible, means that kids have no right to be brought up by their biological parents."

MARGARET SOMERVILLE,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

"We aren't concerned with political stance. We publish ideas. The more you get people talking, the more progressive you are," said McGill-Queen's marketing manager Roy Ward.

"McGill-Queen's mandate is to publish books from all sides," Farrow said. "It's remarkable—the intellectual and moral cowardice of those who don't publish on all sides of a debate."

When Farrow approached the press, the book was in more or less its finished form.

"It was copy-edited and formatted when they got it. The turn-around time was very short: a couple of weeks," said Farrow.

Very little was done by McGill-Queen's before the book was published.

Afterward, according to business manager Arden Ford, they did not peer-review it, also highly unusual for an academic press. Farrow claims it was peer-reviewed a number of times prior to its submission to the press.

In the article "What About the Children?" Somerville argues marriage as a symbol of biological procreation protects the basic rights of children.

"Children have a need and a right to both a mother and a father and to be reared by their own biological parents," the essay reads.

In an interview, Somerville said same-sex marriage destroys that role.

"To redefine marriage to include homosexual unions, under which biological parenting is impossible, means that kids have no right to be brought up by their biological parents."

This is a contentious claim, according to Joanne Ansell, political coordinator of Queer McGill. She says same-sex marriage is actually in the best interests of children.

"You can't take away a lesbian's ovaries," Ansell said. "Children will exist in same-sex homes. They will feel more secure in that home if their parents are married. That word has so much meaning that it can convey exactly what's going on."

Somerville agrees that, in such a case, a new definition of marriage would be helpful for the children, but believes that it would rob children in general of their legal rights.

"Sometimes the best thing for a child would be to be adopted into a homosexual partnership. But it should be regarded as an exception, like adoption," she said.

"We have to protect kids by keeping marriage as the basic rule."

RECLAIMMUST



OPINION

opinion@gatewayualberta.ca • Thursday, 30 September, 2004

There's more to life than marriage

"SO WHEN ARE YOU getting married?" I have been asked this question four times in the last two weeks. All of the inquirers were from the Baby Boomer generation and, while marriage is apparently an ingrained tradition of the Boomers, traditions evolve and sometimes dissolve. I am baffled by society's continual need to impose its cycle of tradition onto its progeny. Marriage is an institution that not everybody needs—not wants—to be a part of. And if people hope to tie the knot there is no need for all the pressure.

North American society seems to have produced a clearly drawn-out map which "normal" people are supposed to follow: start a career, get married, buy a house, have kids, and the next generation gets to repeat the cycle.

But it's a celebration of love, you say? Okay, if you've found the kind of love where your partner completes you or something, throw a wedding party for yourself and all your friends and family. Just don't invite me to the party if it's that "I love pizza" kind of love. You know, eating all that pizza seemed like a good idea at the beginning, but after a little while you realize it was a big mistake. Do people actually need to formalize their commitments through marriage to celebrate healthy loving relationships? Why not have "love parties" every 15 months or so? It can be a continual celebration.

I was discussing the topic of love marriages with a taxi driver on the way to my friend's wedding last week. He was rambling about the 60 per cent divorce rate of love marriages. He then proceeded to boast about the 99 per cent success rate of arranged marriages, including his own. While I was thinking about the other cultural pressures involved with arranged marriages, my thoughts gravitated towards religion.

Some people are supposed to make their relationships official in the eyes of their god/higher power. If faith is a major element in your life, I can respect that. Although, with some stricter religions I get the impression some couples just really want to have sex, and marriage is partially used as a means of achieving that end.

If you're not concerned with the "celebration of love" or religious aspects of marriage, you are probably like some of the folks who reminded me of other benefits: the legal advantages of marriage such as tax breaks, spousal employment benefits and other forms of spousal protection. These legal advantages sound swell, but they are not even an equal right. I applaud Nova Scotia for becoming the sixth region in Canada to recognize same-sex marriage last Friday. However, we live in Alberta with Ralph Klein at the helm. I don't foresee the disappearance of marriage discrimination in Alberta coming anytime soon. As a straight person, why should I have more or better legal advantages than someone of another sexual orientation? I shouldn't. If marriage is an institution that discriminates, I'm not sure I want to be a part of it.

Putting issues of tradition, religion, celebration, law and equality aside, it is pretty much essential to have a partner before you can get married. I am even more intrigued with the recurring, "When are you going to get married?" question since I am not in a relationship. It is okay to be single. In fact it can be pretty great. There is more to life than just romantic love. Having a strong network of love for your close friends and family is equally important.

If I meet a man I want to marry, I'll let you know. In the meantime, don't worry about me. Stop making marriage one of those elements that society naturalizes as destiny.

LEANNE FONG
Photo Editor

US debates a sham

I DON'T KNOW why the US presidential debates are even being called debates; it's clear that this event is nothing more than a bipartisan press conference.

A debate implies a conversation between candidates, including rebuttals, questions and cross-examinations. Sadly, this seems to be the state of affairs in the US these days. So much for democracy.

ADAM ROZENHART
Editor-in-Chief

LETTERS

Hitler was never popular among his people

I was appalled to read Rob Fursiewicz's contention that Hitler was "a man loved by his citizens" that rose to power because of his "charisma and personal appeal" ("Hitler was a human being, too," 21 September). Indeed, his comments are a profound indication that it is exceedingly "necessitous" that we speak of authentic history.

While I agree that it is important to portray all aspects of our historical knowledge rather than unthinkingly demonize historical figures, Fursiewicz's statements are disturbingly misleading. Despite his considerable charisma and simple, appealing populist philosophy, Hitler was never enthusiastically supported by the majority of the population. He rose to power by organizing a radical minority and by obtaining the support of wealthy capitalists.

He exploited the openness of the democratic system by simultaneously running a legitimate political campaign while using paramilitary terrorist tactics to cow or kill his opponents and radicalize the population. When Hitler became Chancellor, his party did not have a majority in the German Parliament.

Hitler used his legitimate position in concert with his paramilitary terrorism to subvert Germany's democratic institutions without the authentic support of the majority of Germans. Most Germans were not very supportive of Hitler's dictatorship; they were mostly scared or apathetic.

Brilliant NSDAP propaganda designed to fool Germans as well as foreigners depicts Hitler's subjects as fanatically loyal. Even today, people such as Fursiewicz continue to be deceived. In fact, throughout his dictatorship Hitler's grip on power was often tenuous—he conducted numerous bloody purges of his own followers and it was only by chance he survived multiple assassination attempts made by Germans. Nazi Germany was never able to compete with the war efforts of the democracies because Hitler feared that he would be deposed if he worked Germany too hard. There are profound lessons to be learned from the comprehensive and fair analysis of Hitler as a political entity and human being, and I would invite anyone interested to begin by reading *Adolph Hitler* by John Toland.

JASON BIANZ
Arts 13

Grimly wrong about pharmaceuticals

I'm writing in regards to Chelsea Grimbly's article on drugs ("Put down the pills and let your body do its own thing," 23 September). This article is irresponsible, as it insults disease sufferers, and laughs in the face of the profession of pharmacy.

The juxtaposition of prostitutes infected with AIDS and overuse of antibiotics in our society is foolish and insulting to AIDS patients. The pharmaceutical industry of AIDS aims at reducing viral load to prolong life, and reducing symptoms to make life more fulfilling. Left to batle



ALBERTA CONSERVATIVES: A LONG TRADITION OF HELPING THOSE IN NEED.

with the forces of AIDS alone, the outlook would be worse.

As well, Ms Grimbly's anthropomorphic Darwinism overgeneralizes evolution. Humans are impacted by evolution, but the confounding factor of human intellect and reason exists. Recent history has seen such advances in medical science that have led to proportional increases in life expectancies and quality of life that one cannot help but marvel at the miraculous effects of pharmaceuticals. Furthermore, some conditions are so serious they cannot be dealt with by the body alone. Until pharmacy came along, people died from these conditions, because of a lack of human knowledge.

But the problem with this article lies mostly in the propagation of blatant disregard for the practice of pharmacy. Yes, society misuses antibiotics, gets prescriptions for minor ailments, and uses medications with serious side effects for inert conditions. Why? Because Ms Grimbly and others do not respect drugs and their use in treating medical conditions. That is why pharmacists exist: to help patients achieve optimal outcomes in the drug and non-drug treatment of medical conditions. If their advice was heeded, antibiotic resistance would not be an issue. Acute pain would only be used for treatment-resistant cases, no one would ever take an antibiotic for a virus, medications would be given based on documented efficacy in treating diagnosed medical conditions, and non-drug treatment of conditions would be emphasized where possible. The survival of the human species would improve, not decline.

If you feel as though I am merely biased and lacking in support of

my points, contact me for a list of evidence touting the benefits to human health and society of respecting the practice of pharmacy. No, Ms Grimbly, drugs are not unnecessary entities leading to the devolution of humans. But ideas like yours just might be.

TONY NICKONCHUK
VP Public Affairs
Pharmacy Students Association

Time to Chuck your Converse shoes

I know the Converse Chuck Taylors have been a street standard for years, but I am happy to announce they are no longer cool among the true "anti-corporate, I want to make a statement against capitalism" crowd.

Now that Nike has bought out Converse (for a mere \$305 million dollars), the Converse-wearing crowd will have to find a new shoe that expresses their need for individuality and non-conformist ways. Wearing the popular black-top favorite has transformed a new retail demographic into a walking billboard for Nike. The profits from purchasing a pair of the shoes will now be going towards one of the largest corporations in the world: one that's been known to use third-world countries as headquarters for factories and child labour as a means to increase their profit margin.

I don't have any strong personal dislike for punks, skids, or even capitalism for that matter. It is the fact that people think they are still making a statement and rebelling by wearing flat, ugly-ass shoes. The majority of Converse shoes

are unattractive, uncomfortable, and I never understood why people would wear them. Now that they no longer have the so-called "street cred" that made them so popular among groups commonly known as skaters, punks, skids and the like, I hope they'll become a dying trend. Not to mention all the fifteen-year-old girls wearing their "cute Chucks" that have destroyed any credibility Converse shoes used to have anyway.

Maybe it's sad for some to see a company that dates back to 1908 fall subject to the nasty "eat or be eaten" capitalist game that has become the 21st century, but I hold no sympathy for Converse. Your retro shoes were ugly and should have remained a nostalgic trend of the past. I hope all the punk kids (or wannabes) are smart enough not to buy into Converse/Nike's image and burn them in protest against capitalism, consumerism and, more importantly, the resurrection of fashion trends that were bad enough the first time around.

TARA SHIBERT
Science 11

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gatewayualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

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GATEWAY OPINION



Opposing Saul isn't 'un-Canadian'



MELVIN
BACKSTROM

points as "un-Canadian."

If this seems to ring the proverbial mnemonic bell, it might be because of a recollection of US Senator Joseph McCarthy's infamous charges in the early 1950s against all who dared to publicly proclaim a different vision of the United States than his own.

John Ralston Saul is undoubtedly one of Canada's foremost intellectuals. An author of numerous novels and essays, he has made an indelible contribution in furthering an understanding of the past and how it has affected the present.

Though his writings concerning Canada predate the appointment of his wife Adrienne Clarkson as Governor-General, it seems appropriate in my mind that a man in his position has expressed such strongly held opinions on what it means to be Canadian, what uniquely defines Canada, and how to resolve problems in federal politics.

His 1997 book *Reflections of a Siamese Twin: Canada at the End of the Twentieth Century* is perhaps the finest example of his commentary on Canada. Based on his wealth of knowledge on the country, Saul makes a persuasive case for a very attractive and inspiring vision of a Canada in which the dilemmas now faced are reconciled with the problematic world of today.

But this reconciliation happens through a familiar and rather disconcerting rhetorical ploy: define the essence of a country, in this case Canada, in terms of supposedly necessary presuppositions that logically entail what you want to prove as your conclusion, which then enables you to dismiss those with alternative view-

However, when you purport to define what a country really is, you very easily run the risk of labeling those with whom you disagree as not just wrong, but somehow traitorous to the "true" national identity.

Though there certainly were Soviet spies within the US government, McCarthy went far beyond the realm of respectful political debate in his use of slander and demagoguery to vilify his opponents as "un-American." His tactics, which at first frightened many into cooperating with him, eventually led to his censure by the US Senate for obstructing its constitutional processes and bringing it into "dishonour and disrepute."

Now I am by no means here trying to argue for any kind of moral equivalence between McCarthy and Saul; the former was a demagogue of the worst kind, while the latter is one of those individuals that all Canadians should feel thankful to have as a fellow citizen.

However, when you purport to define what a country really is, you very easily run the risk of labeling those with whom you disagree as not just wrong, but somehow traitorous to the "true" national identity. Given that Saul's vision of Canada looks remarkably like that formerly espoused by Pierre Trudeau and now by the Liberal Party—though one has to wonder if the federal Liberal Party actually has any core beliefs other than to do whatever it takes to stay in power—those who disagree with that Trudeauan vision (he specifically attacks people like Brian Mulroney and Ralph Klein) and are for the most part on the right side of the political spectrum are denigrated, in a nice Canadian way, as not really Canadian.

This kind of tactic was also seen in the last few weeks of the recent federal election in which Paul Martin, seeing the potential for defeat by the newly re-constituted Conservative Party, swore to defend the sacred trust of Medicare that supposedly defines what it is to be Canadian against those (ie, the Conservatives) who would dare question the perfection of the present healthcare delivery system.

The truth of the matter is that the "essence" of a country like Canada is a disparate, irrational cohesion of people that cannot and should not be used to deprive certain people or groups of their belongingness because they dare challenge prevailing orthodoxies. It is always a temptation for a person of Saul's intelligence to try to find the explanation for the diversity of a country like Canada; it would be far better to find a way to realize respect for what are perhaps irreconcilable differences.



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Forget university; the real money is in religion



JAMES
ELFORD

I'm in the wrong business. This whole writing thing doesn't pay. I need to leave this life of coffee, keyboards and sardonic comments for the best gig of them all: faith. After all, if a couple of transparent God-bucksters like Paul and Jan Couch can become filthy rich, why shouldn't I?

Iver since some primitive genius figured out that he could get a little extra food by yammering at the sky and making all sorts of crazy claims, there have been people eager to use the faith of others for personal enrichment. The Trinity Broadcasting Network is premised on this simple understanding and, if the personal fortunes of the elderly Couches who head it are any example, it works.

TBN is the largest Christian broadcasting network. It fills the airwaves with countless hours of wall-to-wall Christian programming distilled through money-demanding earthly vessels who ask for cash to spread the gospel. They preach a kind of prosperity gospel—a perfect melding of two especially American beliefs: fundamentalist Christianity and the firm belief that some day "you too can become rich."

It's a heady mix that promises people who donate to TBN that God will return unto them their generosity many times over. Of course, why God wouldn't just give the Couches money in the first place if he can hand it out to everyone else might be a question

to ask. Until you realize that it might just be that God helps those who help themselves. In that case, the Couches are truly blessed.

What does this blessing entail? For the network itself, \$170 million in revenue generated each year, according to tax receipts. With the money the network makes from its mostly poor southern American base of support, the Couches have managed to garner themselves salaries in the hundreds of thousands, a \$7.2 million Candair Turbojet owned by TBN, a number of mansions all over the country, also owned by TBN, company credit cards to abuse and plenty of nepotism for their equally parasitic children.

Of course, this might not have come to light had it not been for the fact that the Couches had enough money to be willing to pay an employee \$425 000 to keep quiet with accusations of a homosexual encounter.

That's right. Yet another empire built on Jesus starting to shake because a preacher can't seem to stop himself from violating his own strict interpretation of the Bible.

This isn't shocking, as it has happened a number of times since the '80s. What is shocking is that even after the implosion of televangelists in the '80s into scandal, like Jim and Tammy Faye Baker, and the blatant cloying materialism and cheap elementary-school theatrics of modern faith gurus like Benny Hinn, these people are still raking in the money. The sadder fact is that I'm not a part of this.

So it's time to throw out the laptop, pick up a Bible and head south to build my prayer tower—possibly just like the one built by televangelist Oral Roberts at the "university" he founded with donations. After all, I want to make sure that I'm high enough in the sky that my prayers reach God before everyone else's. Otherwise, I don't know how I'm going to be able to spread the gospel without a TV station being sent down like manna from heaven.

Say, maybe you can help me. Got a few bucks?

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Ways to combat high oil prices

- 10 Make the barrels bigger until \$50 is a good deal for one.
- 9 Disguise the pipelines as giant anacondas so no one, except maybe Ice Cube, will attack them.
- 8 Two words: Zeppelin renaissance.
- 7 New longer-lasting solar-powered oil.
- 6 Outfit SUVs to somehow run on premium-grade stupidity.
- 5 Put blood on the US markets so it can be more efficiently exchanged for oil.
- 4 Get Wal-Mart to buy Halliburton, and let the rollbacks begin!
- 3 Artificial insemination so it'll reproduce more quickly.
- 2 Hire a bunch of Beverly Hills beauties to stumble around with hunting rifles until they accidentally shoot the ground and find more gushers.
- 1 Aw, fuck it—let the terrorists win.

I'm a corporate whore and proud of it



DAVID BERRY

I'm probably a big, fat whore. I'll admit it. And I'm happy with that because, quite frankly, I see nothing wrong with taking someone's money if they want to give it to me.

Now, I should probably explain that I don't mean a literal whore. No, the only cock I really intend on sucking is that great big corporate one. See, I might be crazy, but I just don't see any problem with taking gobs of money from corporations that are willing to give it to me, so long as they're not looking for any control over that money.

This issue came up recently when Campus Plus, a multi-market advertising sales firm of which the Gateway is a member, got some ads from Esso. The ads were nothing all that serious—recruitment ads for graduating students, nothing more. However, due to Esso's somewhat shady environmental record, several papers in Campus Plus refused the ads out of a sense of moral obligation.

No offense to those papers or anyone who agrees with them, but how fucking stupid can you possibly be? Esso could be dousing babies with crude oil and lighting them on fire and I'd still take any money they're willing to give us, so long as they don't demand any extra control over our newspaper. By placing an ad, they're essentially

just giving us a large sum of money for nothing more complicated than putting a graphic in our paper. I really don't see where disagreeing with some of Esso's policies plays into this. Hell, this type of "funding" is such that you could take that money and pay someone to write an article telling everyone how bad Esso is—you could probably even put it next to the ad, if you like. Not taking their money when they're going to let you do something like this was probably enough reason to get you sterilized in the '50s.

Esso could be dousing babies with crude oil and lighting them on fire and I'd still take any money they're willing to give us, so long as they don't demand any extra control over our newspaper.

This kind of thing obviously extends beyond newspapers, however. The University, for example, deals with this all the time, two great examples being the De Beers diamond lab and the Coca-Cola sponsorship. Now, I'll admit these are both two really bad companies: De Beers' human rights record is fairly stained by blood, and Coke is regularly destroying third world countries by sucking up ground water wherever they put their plants. These are both terrific reasons to not buy these companies' products.

But if they're going to give us

money—and gobs of it, to the tune of \$100 000 from De Beers and a few million from Coke—without dictating our policy, we'd be fools not to take it. Okay, they have a bad record. Fine. No one says you have to drink Coke or outfit yourself with De Beers diamonds. But why not use all that money they're willing to give us to train a new batch of lawyers to make them accountable for their actions? Turning it away because of some kind of moral superiority is like not taking money from your grandmother because she smells funny—alright, that 20 might stink up the other bills in your wallet, but it's not like she's making you spend it on bad perfume.

Now, obviously, we can't take just anyone's money. A perfect example of why came last year, when CSIR was offered \$10 000 (about a tenth of what they'll likely make in their upcoming fund drive) by Smirnoff Ice to air a show but refused it. They turned it down because Smirnoff demanded control over what would air during their sponsored hour. In this case, obviously, you should be incredibly careful whom you're taking your money from. However, if Smirnoff was willing to give them all this money and not put any controls on it, it would probably warrant a decent beating with a tack hammer.

And this goes for other things too. It's free money. The companies willing to give us money could be dumping oil on endangered species—hell, they probably already are—killing my relatives and draining water to the point where they make the sea levels drop and I'd still take whatever they give me. Just no kissing on the lips.

Stereotypes surrounding rape still alive and well



ADAM SNIDER

"Women who wear miniskirts want to be raped, and we will give them what they want." These were the words of a bus driver in Swaziland talking to the press after three other transit employees were arrested in connection with the gang rape of an 18-year-old high-school student in the country earlier this week.

It would be too easy, shocking as it is, to brush this news off as something that happens "over there." Unfortunately, while most people aren't so blatant about it, this same attitude is all too prevalent in our own country.

Imagine, if you will, a woman stating that, "Of course women don't want to be raped. But if they dress a certain way, they are increasing the odds that they will be." Or a male friend of that same female commenting, upon her being groped in a crowded bar, "That's what you get for dressing that way." Now stop imagining. Both of these incidents actually happened. These people are not conservative senior citizens. They are young, enlightened university students. Clearly, the attitude of the bus driver in Swaziland is not unique to his sub-Saharan nation.

Why, in a social age when women are supposedly treated as equals, is this attitude so prevalent? Part of the problem lies in the justice system. Suspected criminals are considered innocent until proven guilty. This isn't a problem in and of itself. Few people would claim any desire to be treated

as guilty until proven innocent. Why, then, are rape victims treated in such a manner?

Yes, an alleged rapist should be given the benefit of the doubt until proven guilty, as any other alleged criminal should be. However, this should not mean treating the alleged victim as though she is a liar, out to destroy a supposedly innocent man's reputation. If a woman were mugged in a dark alley, we would hardly assume that she had fabricated the story. Would the defense lawyers look into her background in an attempt to characterize her as a rather generous person and claim that, as a result, it is likely that the mugger simply assumed she was giving her purse to him consensually? Of course not, so why do defense lawyers in rape cases frequently attempt to characterize the victims as promiscuous in order to destroy their credibility? In the Kobe Bryant case, for example, the woman's history was so intensely scrutinized that she ultimately refused to testify.

A larger problem, which may shed light on the previous, is that, despite

all pretense, women are not treated as equals. Even in the 21st century, pop culture has a tendency to present audiences with ancient notions of men as animalistic and sexually impulsive clods, unable to control their urges around members of the opposite sex. It's not the man's fault. In this conception of sexuality, he can't help himself. It's up to the woman to present herself modestly so as not to set off the menfolk; if she doesn't, she's asking for trouble. When this double standard is played for humour, as it often is, it can sneak into the subconscious quite unnoticed and become an assumed truth when news of a rape is reported.

The issues surrounding this problem are complex, and this article only touches on some of them. As with any societal problem, the only way to incite change is through open discussion of the issues.

One thing is certain, though; just as suspects must be treated as innocent until proven guilty, so too must victims be treated with the respect and care they deserve.



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SU By-Election Results

On September 23 and 24, the Students' Union held a by-election to fill vacant Students' Council and GFC seats. The following candidates were elected:

Students' Council

Agriculture, Forestry, & Home Economics
Chelsy Shillington

Arts
John Chandler

Education
Lillian Patz

Faculté St. Jean
Sarah Colpitts

Science
Keith Vandersluis

General Faculties Council

Agriculture, Forestry, & Home Economics
Meredith LaForge

Arts
Saarah Shivji
John Chandler

Augustana
Michelle Reshaur

Education
Ryan Hayden

Medicine & Dentistry
Brock Debenham
Natasha Radhika Dang

Science
Shawna Pandya

More by-election information is available on the SU Elections website, including detailed voting results:
www.su.ualberta.ca/vote

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GATEWAY OPINION

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Tuesday, October 5, 2004

5-7 pm; ED 129

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Occupational Therapy

(Intended for students who are considering continued education in the Occupational Therapy field)

Thursday, October 7, 2004

5-7:30 pm; ED 165

Guest panelists from U of A (academic and graduate student), Muenster Hospital (Adult Mental Health), Glenora Rehabilitation Hospital (Pediatric), and a representative from private practice

Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

Wednesday, October 13, 2004

4-6 pm; CAB 229

Guest panelists from EPCOR, Gov't of Alberta, Statistics Canada, Workers Compensation Board and more TBA

Physics

Thursday, October 14, 2004

5-7 pm; V 102

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Who wants to ride the mustache?



JOSH KIENNER

have uses beyond creeping out girls. You can conceal with them not only your identity, but any potentially embarrassing upper lip scarring as well. Mustaches also keep said upper lip warm in the winter, and in the summer prevent melanoma by blocking harmful UV rays. There's really nothing a mustache can't do!

**Yes, the mustache—
simultaneously the
best and creepiest
facial hair you can
grow south of your
forehead.**

Except, of course, make people take you seriously. I learned this the hard way while doing all of last year's Christmas shopping with a ridiculously sexy mustache (see head box). The results were roughly similar to what I would have experienced had I done my shopping with a Polaroid of a scrotum stapled to my forehead. People try to ignore it, but end up furtively glancing at it every few seconds like it's a goddamn goiter or something.

It shouldn't be like this; the mustache doesn't get the respect it so rightly deserves. It should no longer be solely the domain of be-mulleted

El recipients and female farmers. The mustache is worthy of the prominence it had in the '80s, when the only thing a nose liked better than cocaine was a beautiful, healthy 'stache standing guard beneath it.

Mustaches in the '80s were like crabs are now—everybody had them. Don't believe me? Look at your parents' wedding picture. If more than half of the guys in the wedding party aren't sporting mustaches, I am, officially, a monkey's uncle. Mustaches were good enough for our honourable parents, fellow students—I'd say that they're more than good enough for us.

So good, in fact, I'm going to say something right now so that it's in print: by the time the first years graduate (for those of you who know me, this will roughly coincide with my 30th birthday), the mustache will be back in all of its Glen Anderson, Burt Reynolds, your-dad-before-he-was-saddled-with-the-needy-time-sapping-attention-mongering-burden-that-is-you glory.

Although they won't be back for a few years yet, there's nothing better than being on the edge of fashion. So, gents, and ladies of Moose Jaw, give your upper lip a few weeks' vacation from the Mach 3 and see what happens. If you can't impress any girls, at least you might be able to make them start crying.

Kill your telephone before it kills your soul



KIRK ZIMBAL

into their souls. Or something equally profound like that. And if nobody in the world had phones, then I wouldn't have to worry anymore about that dude from Eddie's who insists on "calling his boys" because I was "leering" at his "girlfriend."

**It used to be that we
had to actually see
somebody in person
to communicate with
them. Now half the
time I don't even know
who I'm talking to—
just some ladies with
enticingly husky voices.**

Now, I've been called a radical and a big loser due to my anti-telecommunication stance, and I will agree that it is uncool to include the phrase "several business days" when exchanging numbers with a girl. But, fortunately

for me, it's not something that I have to worry about very often. Or at all.

Regardless, I'm sure it will all be worth it in the end, because when people see a cool guy like me escape from Telus' evil clutches, they will have the courage to do so as well. Really, it isn't that hard to do: you just go up to a customer service representative and tell them that you want out, and if they hassle you, start to cry and/or flirt with them. Why, if a man such as Kramer had the courage to give up mail, you too should have the courage to leave whatever phone company you've been seeing out of pity for the last few years and find someone better. Just don't try and ask for any refunds, because they're really and about that.

So, even if you yourself lack the wherewithal to give up the good life that your landline or mobile supposedly provides, sympathize with my fight for freedom. Because even if I am beaten and broken in the eternal, if not slightly overblown, struggle, I will never get telephone service ever again. Unless my parents pay for it.



DIE PHONE! This phone stabbed my father and impregnated my sister.

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U of A OLYMPIANS

A feature by Jake Troughton and Robin Collum.
Photos by Leanne Fong and Lauren Jennings.
Illustration by Kevin Ng.



The University of Alberta is recognized as having arguably the best athletics program in Canada. And from athletes to coaches to administrators, the U of A is always well-represented when Canada's university teams go abroad.

But this August, two members of the Athletics Department's staff had the chance to represent the U of A at the pinnacle of international athletics—the Games of the 28th Olympiad in Athens, Greece.



Georgette Reed, head coach of the Golden Bears and Pandas track and field and cross-country running teams, went to Athens as an apprentice coach through the Canadian Coaching Association's Women in Coaching program. She took part in the Canadian track team's pre-Olympic training camp in Italy before heading to Olympia, home of the original Olympic Games, where she worked with Canada's shot-put contingent.

"That was the old Olympic Stadium; it was very cool to be in Olympia," she says. "You could almost feel the presence of all the athletes that have gone before the athletes that were competing this year. It was a really neat, very special environment. It would have been nice to have had a lot more Olympic events at more historic places. It would've been a neat angle, I think."

Reed had been to the Olympics before; the 13-time Canadian shot-put champion represented Canada in that event at the 1992 Barcelona Games. But her first Olympiad as a coach proved to be very different from her Spanish experience.

"As an athlete you have a routine, you have things that you do as you're preparing for your event," she says. "You have more of a schedule and you know what you're going to do. As a coach you're pretty much at the athletes' beck and call. ... You spend a lot of time watching, observing, almost worrying about how the athletes are going to do. However, you don't have a way of being able to get rid of that nervous energy, whereas as an athlete,

you worry, but you go in and do your training session, and that can sometimes alleviate some of that worry. As a coach, you can just sit and watch; you can't really go out there and do anything. It makes you a little bit more anxious."

Reed says that one of the biggest benefits she gained from her trip was a first-hand look at the way Team Canada is organized and brought together. That insight will guide her in her second year as head coach of the Pandas and Bears, as she tries to give the track and cross-country squads, along with coaches and even Athletics Department administrators, the feeling of being one unified team.

"I did learn a lot from this experience, and it's definitely helped me grow as a coach, and hopefully I can bring that into the rest of the program."

GEORGETTE REED

"It's based on a similar model as Team Canada, although the nice thing about being there is I got a chance to see how they did it and how they didn't do it properly, and how to do it the right way," she says. "That's probably the biggest thing, trying to learn from other people's mistakes—not just from mistakes, but from the ways that people do things differently—and from there, trying to mold it into something that fits the University and fits my style of leadership."

"But I did learn a lot from this experience, and it's definitely helped me grow as a coach, and hopefully I can bring that into the rest of the program," she says.

"Out of the two I much more enjoyed my athletic experience, but hopefully I'll get a chance to do another coaching experience."

The only regret Reed seems to have about her trip to the Olympics is that she was unable to march in either the opening or closing ceremonies in Athens.

"I would've loved to have been able to. I got a chance to do it once before in '92, and it was an amazing experience. Even though it takes about eight hours with the staging and all the time that you sit there and everything, there's something special about being in the opening and closing ceremonies."

U of A Athletics Director Kim Gordon did get the chance to march in the opening ceremonies in Athens—and for her, the experience was long overdue.

Gordon was in Athens as a "village liaison," acting as a link between Canada Olympic House, the meeting place for athletes' family members, and the athletes in the Olympic Village. However, 24 years ago she was nearly an Olympian herself. A former elite rower, Gordon qualified for the Moscow Olympics in 1980, but world events weren't on her side as western countries contemplated whether to boycott the Soviet-hosted Games.

"We were over in Europe training, always optimistically hoping that they'd let us go, because they'd changed their minds once," she remembers. "But it turned out that because of the invasion of Afghanistan by Russia, they decided not to send a Canadian team, which was unfortunate."

Canada's Olympic boycott robbed Gordon of the chance to compete in the world's most prestigious sporting event, but this year she finally got to partly experience what she missed out on then. When she arrived in Athens, she was invited to march with Team Canada in the opening ceremonies.

"Every day we'd watch the sun set and the moon come up on the Acropolis. It was magical, especially when you think how old it is."

KIM GORDON

"There were two of us there who were on the boycott team, and hadn't had that opportunity. They said 'We'd like you to be a member of our team and march in the opening ceremonies with us,'" she explains.

"Wow, sure, thanks! So we went and had dinner with the team in the village, and went on the buses, and were marshaled in. It was very emotional, actually."

The opening ceremony, though, certainly wasn't the only part of her time in Athens that Gordon enjoyed. She had the chance to see many of the events of the Games, including rowing, basketball, volleyball, diving, swimming and the medal games of men's field hockey. She was also able to experience some of the marvels of ancient Greece.

"It was fascinating. It was magical. It was Athens,"

she says. "Our location had a patio on top of the building, and the backdrop was the Acropolis, so every day we'd watch the sun set and the moon come up on the Acropolis. It was magical, especially when you think how old it is. And it was the birthplace of the Olympics, so to be involved that way made it even more special."

Gordon has attended international sporting events in the past, as she's also been part of Canada's delegations at numerous World University Games. But her position as village liaison in Athens was a departure from those earlier experiences, where she was more directly involved in the athletes' villages.

"I missed being with the athletes and coaches in the village—that's what I'm used to being around," she says. "But when they'd come over to Canada Olympic House, mainly after they were done, they'd hang out and watch other athletes. So I got to meet quite a few of them."

Many Canadians were disappointed by the performance of the country's contingent in Greece, but Gordon says the negativity didn't really affect her perspective of the Games.

"We were insulated to a certain degree from all the negative media that was going on in Canada," she says. "We knew, of course. We were watching the performances and wondering at some of the crashes and burns, or at why people didn't win the medals we thought they would, but that's sports. That's the Olympics."

Whatever her role, Gordon feels very fortunate to have been included in the Games—and in particular to have finally had the chance to march with Team Canada—even if it came 24 years later than it should have.

"It still wasn't my team; it wasn't as if I was an athlete," she says. "I'm an aging athlete, reliving old memories. It was a different perspective. But it was very memorable being involved nonetheless."



Alexisonfire not 'lactating contortionists'

Alexisonfire

with Moonen and guests

Ref's

Monday, 4 October at 7pm

MICHAEL LAROQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

With a successful new album, *Watch Out!*, and a video in rotation on MuchMusic, you'd think there'd be nary a worry on Alexisonfire's mind. But it turns out these St. Catherine's, Ontario punks do have something to be afraid of: porn stars.

Named after adult-film actress Alexis on Fire (*Fashionable Feet*, *Lady Fellatio 2*)—the self-proclaimed "world's only lactating contortionist"—Alexisonfire (the band) has always been a wee bit concerned the actress might take issue with their name.

There was a brief trademark tiff when the band first emerged four years ago—the group kept its name when it turned out the name wasn't trademarked—and Alexis on Fire (the sexy contortionist) has let the group perform without further incident. Not that the band isn't worried.

"We're always scared when we go to Nevada that she's going to show up with a bunch of gross, aging porn stars ready to beat us with bats," admits front man George Logan.

And potential clobberings by aging "actresses" isn't the only trouble their name has stirred up. The band never predicted the confusion their name would cause, whether through misspelling ("Alexis on Fire," for example) or misunderstanding ("Alex is on Fire").

With so many name issues, this ensemble of guitar-wielding rockers lets the music speak for itself.

"We set really modest goals as a band when we started," reminisces Logan. "We pretty much lived off of all these little shows set up by kids who managed to talk some sucker into letting us use their hall for the night. Things have considerably picked up, and everything that's come about since then has been us being in the right place at the right time, like handing the right person the demo without even knowing it."

"We're always scared when we go to Nevada that she's [Alexis on Fire] going to show up with a bunch of gross, aging porn stars ready to beat us with bats."

GEORGE LOGAN,
LEAD SINGER, ALEXISONFIRE

Still, more than dumb luck has played a part in the band's success. Following a successful self-titled debut last year, Alexisonfire toured Canada and the rest of the globe, winning over swarms of fans at every stop. While Canada remains their biggest market to date, the band's following abroad landed them spots at both the Leeds and Reading festivals in the UK—massive, outdoor shows which draw music lovers by the tens of thousands.

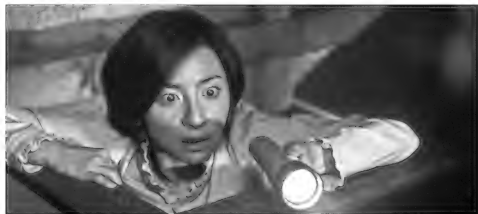
Riding this momentum, Alexisonfire has followed up their freshman effort with *Watch Out!*



a new album that shipped gold (50 000 copies circulating in Canada alone).

The new album has the same hard-rock feel as the first, but features a noticeably more finished sound and improved musicianship. A respectable follow-up put out with not much more than a year in between, Logan and the boys remain surprisingly modest about their success.

"I think that we got where we were because of a series of flukes and a couple of cool people who worked in major media points like MuchMusic. Mind you, we weren't the type that thought anything like this was going to happen when we started a band. Back when we began this thing we never thought we would have a video or anything like that. It's very humbling."



Grudge for the open-minded

Ju-On: The Grudge

Directed by Takashi Shimizu
Starring Megumi Okina, Kanji Tsuda,
Mika Uehara, and Yoji Tanaka
Metro Cinema
1–6 October at 9pm

PATRICK ROSS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

From the very beginning, writer/director Takashi Shimizu approaches *Ju-On: The Grudge* with a unique philosophy on horror films. The director has said in the past of *Ju-On* (the film became an instant classic in Japan; *The Grudge* is the third film in the *Ju-On* series), "I want to show the ghosts as much as possible, even though I know some people might laugh. At the first screening of *Ju-On*, someone laughed during the film. ... But someone else told them 'Don't laugh at something so scary!'"

Ju-On: The Grudge is as scary as it is peculiar. And like movies in the emerging "neo-horror" genre (*The Ring* and *The Blair Witch Project* could arguably fall into the same category), many of its frights come from how the director isn't afraid to change the expected rules of the genre.

The form, for instance, is untraditional—less one cohesive tale and more a series of short films linked together by context.

The story focuses around a house in Japan in which a family was grotesquely murdered. The atrocity is chronicled in the opening minutes of the film in gloriously dark, bloody and gritty detail (disappointingly, they're the best few minutes of the film). The murder spawns an apparition intent on exacting revenge upon any and all who encounter it. A number of characters—from detectives investigating the house's mystery to a homecare worker—come through the house and each stars in a mini-story involving the house.

Like many great Japanese films, *The Grudge* highlights stark contrasts: contrasts between light and dark, and silence and noise. Using this technique, the film propels its uniquely engaging story from the mundane to the surreal and back again seamlessly.

However, the reasons this film was a success in Japan will serve to undermine its success in North America. To some viewers, *The Grudge* will come across as a peculiar film. They won't know what to make of the oddly pale little people (the ghosts, that is), or the house setting's perpetual disarray. In all likelihood, these will be the same people who lose interest quickly due to the subtleties.

Perhaps Shimizu describes this culture clash best: "I think non-Japanese are afraid of what is under the bed, but in Japan people sleep on the floor."

This is a film for the open-minded.

Sly Verb for every body

Sly Verb

Toronto Dance Theatre
Artistic Director Christopher House
Brian Webb Dance Company
John L. Hoar Theatre (10045 156 Street)
1–2 October at 8pm

SHAYNE ABRAMS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Watching dance is a somewhat disconnected experience; finding meaning through movement is a difficult job for even the most seasoned observer. However, Toronto Dance Theatre's *Sly Verb*, the season opener for Edmonton's Brian Webb Dance Company, aims to bring modern dance closer to home.

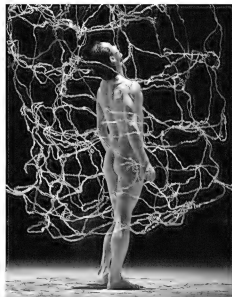
The show, playing on 1 and 2 October, explores two themes: basic to everyone: the body and the mind. Artistic Director Christopher House's most recent production will open the 26th season of Edmonton's Brian Webb Dance Company. This year, Webb's company will be focusing on the celebration of the dancing body, and it is therefore fitting that *Sly Verb* serves as its debut piece.

House explains that *Sly Verb* challenges the established nature of dance, where the dancer's body is used to express a subject. In the case of *Sly Verb*, the dancer's body is the subject.

"It is about the body as an object to be looked at and to be analyzed by the audience as well," House says.

In deciding how to best communicate the theme of the body to his audience, House harnessed the intimacy and universality of human touch, perception, and perspective, taking on, as he says, "a sensuous way of dealing with the world rather than a completely rational way."

In order to explore the body as both a subject and an object, dancers make use of elements such as hand-held live video.



ence to become very, very close to the body."

The people in the audience aren't the only ones who take a close look at the body; House had *Sly Verb*'s twelve dancers take the opportunity to go through a process of self-inspection. From the beginning of the creative process, the dancers were involved in the exploration and development of the dance.

"We worked with quite a bit of improvisation in this piece because I felt it was really important that there be a kind of authentic voice within the dancers themselves," House says. "I am interested in working not just with an idea of an abstract dancer who does what he or she is told but also someone who is really engaged with their imagination at all times," says House.

House hopes the product of this work is a strong connection between movement and the audience—a "process of encountering new ways to look at dance and the world."

Sly Verb promises to be a unique experience for an Edmonton audience: a modern dance show that appeals first to the senses and then to the mind.

All work and no play makes Por Nada write pop

Local band toys with a brighter, poppier sound on their latest record

Por Nada

with All Purpose Voltage Heroes
and Bolide
CD Release Party
Starlite Room
Saturday, 2 October at 8pm

JAMES STORRIE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If local post-rockers Por Nada hate one thing, it's getting in a rut—especially with their style of music. This band of U of A students' new CD marks a shift from their Godspeed! You Black Emperor-inspired experimental instrumental arrangements to a poppier sensibility.

"We ended up just getting bored," explains drummer Millap Petigara of the band's genre shift.

"We've definitely embraced more of those poppy elements, although it's been a slow process," singer Matthew Skopyk points out.

"It isn't one specific direction," Petigara says. "Since this is stuff we've written in the last year and half, it's pretty spread out."

"What we did decide to use was the most cohesive representation of our music. It all works out, but certainly some of the songs that didn't make the cut had much less of a pop feel to them."

It's far from unexpected, however, to find such a change in style, given the line-up changes the band has been through in the last year. Through most of last year, the band was trying to



find a suitable bassist, and they eventually found one in Andrew Wood (Andrew's brother Rob fronts local group Champion, Alberta).

"We were really struggling to find someone," explains Skopyk. "And I think that really came through in the music; writing in that sort of instability really makes everything come out sounding very detached."

Things are finally settling down, though, and Por Nada's gearing up for their CD release party at the Starlite on Saturday.

The new lineup is solid—"Andrew's awesome. He really takes over and adds a good deal of direction when it's needed," Skopyk comments—and All Purpose Voltage Heroes and Bolide have Por Nada's endorsement as solid opening acts.

"It's a good lineup for the night,"

says Skopyk. "A DJ, and then the key-board band, and then us. A lot of variety, but common elements, too."

As for Por Nada's performance, those who take in the show this weekend can expect the usual Por Nada attention to craftsmanship, but with a handful of decidedly new stylistic twists, Petigara explains.

"It's always important to keep growing as musicians, and we're really making an effort to keep that up. We've started using the instruments in newer, more interesting ways: like, I used to play the drums, but now I just wear a big hat and smoke a long cigarette while sitting in the corner with a beat machine. I still keep the drums on stage, though."

Petigara, clearly, is being a bit far. But one thing's certain: Por Nada's show is sure to bring plenty of surprises.



Free your mind, body and wallet
To win a pair of tickets to the Saturday, October 2 performance of *Sly Verb*, email contests@gateway.ualberta.ca with the name of the show's artistic director.

Brian Webb
DANCE COMPANY

CaPS WORKSHOPS

4.0 Resumes for Students in...

The focus of this workshop is on learning a new conceptual framework that can be used to develop a new resume or revise an existing resume. Results from a survey about employers' expectations and preferences regarding resumes are also presented.

- **Science:** Wednesday, October 6, 2004, 4 – 5:30 pm, 402 SUB
- **Business:** Thursday, October 7, 2004, 4 – 5:30 pm, 402 SUB
- **Arts:** Thursday, October 14, 4:30 – 6 pm, 402 SUB

Acing the Interview for Students in...

The focus of this workshop is on how to prepare effectively for a job interview and how to respond to interview questions. Results from our employer survey about their practices and expectations regarding the interview process are included in this workshop.

- **Engineering:** Tuesday, October 5, 2004, 5:30 – 7 pm, 402 SUB
- **Business:** Tuesday, October 12, 2004, 4 – 5:30 pm, 402 SUB
- **Science:** Wednesday, October 20, 2004, 4 – 5:30 pm, 402 SUB
- **Arts:** Thursday, November 18, 2004, 3:30 – 5 pm, 402 SUB

Career Selections for Students in...

- **Science:** Saturday, October 20, 2004, 10 am – 1 pm, 2-100 SUB
- **Arts:** Saturday, November 20, 2004, 10 am – 1 pm, 2-702 SUB

Pre-register at CaPS, 2-100 SUB.

If there is no workshop scheduled for your area of study or if you cannot make the one as scheduled, you can register in any workshop and you will receive the handout materials for your area of study. To organize a workshop for students in your area of study, e-mail amber.nicholson@ualberta.ca.

Check the CaPS website at HYPERLINK "<http://www.ualberta.ca/caps>" or www.ualberta.ca/caps for more information such as fees.



SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Oktoberfest beer gardens

Business Quad
Friday, 1 October, 11am–7pm

Remember how this WOW you were ready to drink your face off before class, but were instead greeted by a deserted, garbage-littered Quad. Well, justice will

soon be served, as the Business Students' Association is continuing their tradition of late-autumn alcohol feasts by putting on yet another Oktoberfest. Join in a day of guzzling das beer and munching die brezel, while digging some dance-worthy tunes.

Raving Poets

Zenari's on First
Saturday, 2 October at 9:30pm

Do you prize thy love more than whole

mines of gold, or all the riches that the East doth hold? If so, skip the bar this Saturday and to Zenari's restaurant for a performance by the Raving Poets Band, followed by an open stage (if you're brave enough, you can take the mic and read your own creations). You'll laugh, cry, and strike dramatic poses as Canadian-grown poets recite tales of lust, love, and bitter reality.

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Tapping the Hidden Job Market Through Networking
Friday, October 1, 2004Becoming a Lawyer: First Steps
Monday, October 4, 2004Can I take a test to tell me what to do with the rest of my life?
Tuesday, October 5, 2004Electronic/Scannable Resumes
Wednesday, October 6, 2004Using the Internet to Find Work
Tuesday, October 7, 2004Working in the US
Friday, October 8, 2004;
Please note: This seminar takes place in Dinwoodie Lounge, 2:00-3:00Cover Letters and Other Work Search Letters
Tuesday, October 12, 2004Developing a Personal Web Site to Find Work
Wednesday, October 13, 2004Times
Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 12:05-12:50 pm
Tuesday & Thursday: 12:35 - 1:20 pmFind the complete fall schedule on our website:
HYPERLINK "http://www.ualberta.ca/caps" www.ualberta.ca/caps

Edmonton's rock-star laureate

Local author Mingus Tourette's poetry compilation, *Nunt*, has enough sex, drugs, and violence to make him a bonafide rock star

Nunt

By Mingus Tourette
Zygote PublishingMICHAEL LABOQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

For the vast majority of people—even "enlightened" university folk—the word "poetry" is enough to cause paralysis and cold sweats, or, at the very least, conjure repressed memories of English 101 horrors. But Edmonton writer Mingus Tourette figures he can change the way people think about poetry.

"Poets and writers shouldn't have to scrape by as they generally do, and it would be beautiful to see them worshipped in the same way people worship rock stars. But, for that to happen, we have to project an image that creates some excitement."MINGUS TOURETTE,
AUTHOR OF NUNTAuthor of *Nunt*, a collection of 60 poems filled with profanity and promiscuity, binge drinking and violence, and every shocking, scandalous and potentially offensive thing in between, Tourette's work not only offends but grabs you by the neck and forces you to finish—whether you like poetry or not.

"For this book, my ex-wife was an enormous influence," Tourette explains. "It's the story of trying to get away from her, get over us. I would describe the book as a requiem for a love story gone horribly wrong. It starts in the ashes of the relationship, which can't be understated. The shadow of that marriage hangs over everything, or at least, such is the intent."

"If the reader misses that, then the book may seem like a senseless round of sex, violence and substance abuse, which is not the point."

The point, says Tourette, is not just to offend, but to explore why people find things offensive.

"I often write in a way that may be considered obscene, but the book is intended to challenge that notion. I find Mr Bush's words to be far more obscene than what I write."

"It's all a matter of perspective. Does the word 'cunt' bother you, or do the words 'American liberators' bother you?"

What bothers Tourette is that poets aren't given the kind of screaming adulation reserved for other artists like actors or rock stars.

"Poets and writers shouldn't have to

scrape by as they generally do, and it would be beautiful to see them worshipped in the same way people worship rock stars. But, for that to happen, we have to project an image that creates some excitement. There will be no rock-star status without some rock-star imagery."

And rock star imagery he has—sort of. Tourette will be embarking on a national circuit this week with an array of other poets on the *Write the Nation* tour, traveling across Canada in a fully-functioning pink ambulance.

"Essentially, I think that poetry—and writing, for that matter—is so far off the popular cultural radar as to be non-existent. It is ridiculous to drive a pink ambulance across the country, yet how else would poetry make the news?"

Mingus Tourette

with Douglas Barbour,
Stephen Haighton, Richard Harrison
and Rhea Tegebov
Poetry at the Edmonton Lifeset
Rice Theatre Lobby, Citadel Theatre
Saturday, 2 October at 11am

West Wind blows plenty of hot air

Novel as uninspired and unpleasant as an episode of *Touched By An Angel*

West Wind, North Chatter

By Deanna Kent-McDonald
NeWest PressELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

There's a thin line between stupid and clever. The most familiar, boring, and overused idea can come to life if nurtured by a talented artist's hands. On the other hand, an intriguing, original, and interesting premise can fall flat if mishandled by a clumsy, mawkish author.

Sadly, Deanna Kent-McDonald's debut novel, *West Wind, North Chatter*, is a blatant example of the latter category.Disorganized and slipshod, and worse than an episode of *Touched By An Angel*, this book is a plain unpleasant read.

Set in the chilly small town of Grande Prairie, the story focuses around depressed 30-something Emily Reeves. After misarrying her first child, Emily gathers her savings and buys a cyber café/coffee house named "Bean There" in an attempt to find solace. As she still refuses to move on from the tragedy, her frustrated husband departs for Vancouver, leaving poor little Emily to bombard her relentlessly patient and understanding sister, mother, and friends with

e-mails dripping with self-pity and goopy sentiment.

The entire premise is all laid out neatly in the prologue, which is comprised entirely of e-mails and letters from Emily and her loved ones, beginning at the start of Emily's blissful marriage and ending in its utter collapse within 17 pages. From then on, the rest of the story is a bewildering jumble of e-mails, flashbacks, and sticky prose.

And even the main character, Emily Reeves, is entirely unsympathetic... As the novel progresses and her friends marry, move, procreate, or die, Emily remains unchanged, like a sad little rock that gets stuck in everyone's shoe.

Electronic mail is the major source of characterization in the book, used mainly to inform readers that every minor character has a sorrowful,

movie-of-the-week past.

The rude clerk at the airport is worried that her daughter might be on drugs; one of the racist patrons of Bean There is in the middle of a custody battle for his baby girl; one of Emily's employees has impregnated his teenage girlfriend. While these are clearly attempts to make the characters less two-dimensional, most of these people have little to no impact on the story in the first place, rendering their personal dramas unnecessary and pointless clutter.

And even the main character, Emily Reeves, is entirely unsympathetic. Her moping, dreary mood aims for the "aww, how sad!" reaction but wind up inspiring the reader to snap at her to get over it already. She snuffles about how her husband David has withdrawn his affection and understanding, when it's she who refuses to offer any in return. She is stuck in a lonely, isolated rut, and it's entirely her fault. As the novel progresses and her friends marry, move, procreate, or die, Emily remains unchanged, like a sad little rock that gets stuck in everyone's shoe.

One needs only to quote one of the minor characters to sum up the novel. "Is this what life's supposed to be? Little parts and pieces culminating together into what, I wonder?" The answer: absolutely nothing.

SPORTS

sports@gatewayalberta.ca • Thursday, 30 September, 2004

Bears host Battle of Alberta as football stretch run begins

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Writer

Turnabout is only fair play, and this year the Golden Bears are looking to repay the years of abuse they've suffered at the hands of their provincial rivals, the Calgary Dinos, while the Bears

were among the cellar dwellers of CIS football.

Now, heading into Saturday's match against the 1-2 Dinos, the Bears have a perfect 4-0 record for the first time in 33 years, and have the top ranking on the CIS top ten list for the first time since 7 October, 1996.

Bears head coach Jerry Friesen insisted that

the team's new status won't affect their play this weekend or add any more pressure to the suddenly not-so-dark-horse favourites to win the Vanier Cup.

"There's a target on your back because you are ranked number one. But does it create any more pressure? No," said Friesen. "We have to go out

and play our football game, we have to be comfortable with what we do and the pressure that's there is only created by us."

"I don't think we feel too much pressure," Bears linebacker David Lowry agreed. "Teams understand that we're a good team and are going to prepare hard to try and beat us. But just because we're number one doesn't mean we're going to take the week off either."

A quirk in the schedule this season will see the Bears and Dinos meet head to head only once this regular season. That, and the fact that the Dinos are already in tough to make the playoffs, will add intensity to an already passionate match-up.

"I think there's always an added tension when it's the Battle of Alberta because they are a provincial rival and we want to beat them just as bad as they want to beat us," said Lowry. "We want to perform in front of our home crowd and give them something to enjoy, and nothing is more enjoyable than a win."

They'll certainly be expected to win, as the Bears offense and defense both seem to be improving on a weekly basis. That could be a scary thought for a Calgary team that so far this year has had trouble both scoring points and keeping the opposition off the board.

But Friesen said he still sees room for improvement in the Bears squad despite their proficiency on both sides of the ball.

"We've played four games and haven't played a full game yet. We've got lots of room for improvement," said Friesen. "We played a good game against SFU but we still only played 40 minutes worth, so we still have a lot of work to do."

The Bears will have a good chance to finally put that full game together as they enter the stretch drive, with three of their last four games at home. Kickoff for the Battle of Alberta, the first leg of that run, is 7pm Saturday at Foote Field. The game will also be broadcast on www.anysportsanytime.com with Bob Stauffer and Blake Dermott on the call.



FILE PHOTO: JEFFREY GREENAUS

BLOWING BY THE COMPETITION Jarred Winkel and the unbeaten Golden Bears will try to continue their run when the Dinos come to town Saturday.

Soccer Pandas' defense a concern heading into three-game weekend

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

Only three weeks into their season, the Pandas are facing a pivotal weekend as they try to get back into contention in Canada West soccer after falling near the bottom of the standings last weekend.

The Pandas, who had been considered a contender entering the year but were knocked out of the CIS top ten ranking this week, now sit sixth in the eight-team conference and five points out of the final playoff spot. Three games this weekend against the two teams that currently trail them, the Regina Cougars (0-7) and Saskatchewan Huskies (1-3) will give the team an opportunity to re-enter the top tier of the standing—but if they falter, it could deal a fatal blow to their play-off hopes.

"In the blink of an eye in this league you can find yourself down and out," said Pandas head coach Kelly Vandergriff. "Only getting one out of six points at home last weekend really puts us at a disadvantage, so it doesn't matter who we're playing this weekend, they're must-win games."

After surrendering a disastrous five goals in each of two games at home last weekend, Vandergriff will definitely be looking for some defensive improvement from her team in this weekend's matches.

"Well, we can't get much worse," said Vandergriff. "I don't like to see ten goals against all season, let alone in two games. It's obviously going to be a key focus for us over the next week to three weeks."

The Pandas defensive struggles this year have come as something of a surprise, considering the team has the same goalkeepers and defenders as last year's squad that finished second at the conference championship.

"To be completely honest, it's a bit of a mystery

to me," said Vandergriff. "We've got great people who can defend. There's a whole mix of things that are going wrong, but it's all very fixable, and I have a lot of faith in the people on the field that they can do the job. It's not that they don't have the ability; it's just a matter of getting everyone on the same page and getting the best performances that we can out of those people."

This weekend's trio of matches begins tonight in Regina against the hapless Cougars, who've been outscored 47-4 in their seven matches so far. The Pandas will then head to Saskatoon the next day for the first game of a home-and-home set with the Huskies that concludes at Foote Field at noon on Sunday. Vandergriff said the Huskies, whose lone win came against the first-place Victoria Vikes, will pose a challenge despite their low ranking.

"I know we played them in pre-season and seemed to handle them quite easily, but they've made a lot of adjustments since then, and they had a positive result against Victoria, so we've got our work cut out for us."

While playing the Cougars right away might seem like a good chance for the struggling Pandas to gain some momentum, Vandergriff argued that it's not the sort of game her team really needs heading into the home-and-home.

"Playing an opponent like that where we might get things going offensively doesn't necessarily help our defensive game, which could allow for getting a little bit lazy," she said. "If a team doesn't put the same pressure on you as a good team does, it's going to be difficult for us to maintain our defensive focus, and then to come out the next day against someone who's going to put it to you."

The Golden Bears will join the Pandas for their own home-and-home series with the Huskies. Game times for men's squad are 2pm Friday in Saskatoon and 2:15pm Sunday at Foote Field.



FILE PHOTO: JACOB IDENOFF

KEEP IT AWAY The Pandas have had trouble when their opposition controls the ball so far this year.

Young Pandas basketball squad faces alumni

PAUL OWEN
Sports Writer

When the Pandas basketball squad steps on the court Saturday afternoon, there will be a lot of familiar faces; most of them, however, will be on the opposing team. The Pandas alumni will offer this year's squad their first test at home, as eight rookies will make their home debut.

"I don't even think that you can draw a comparison," said head coach Trix Baker about the change this off-season brought. "This is really a whole new team. They pick stuff up quick, and they are very athletic and very committed."

The new-look Pandas will have little in common with last season's injury-plagued team that went 5-15, missing the playoffs. Leading scorers Diane Smith and Cristl Allan have departed due to graduation, but Baker seemed to have no doubt that, despite its youth, the new team will be competitive even without those stars.

"We're going to be a surprise team," she said. "A lot of teams will be shocked by how skilled and how poised we are. I would have thought with a young team that the obstacle would've been them believing in themselves, but they're all so driven. They are focused and they know what they want."

Baker is approaching the game both as a test for her young team and as a chance for her players to come together as a team and learn to improvise on the court.

"The biggest thing is making adjustments as the game goes along; making sure that if something's hurting us, we take that away," said Baker. "It's a chance to get over those jitters. It's a game situation and we

need them. These games give us an opportunity before we have to play in games that mean something in the league, so it's just getting that game experience."

Fifth-year forward Stephanie Stolk, the team's highest returning scorer, added that she has another reason to want to play the alumni.

"I enjoy seeing all the old players that I used to watch when I was younger and getting a chance to play against them," she said. "There are three of them on our coaching and training staff, so it's fun to play up against them. We may be in better shape, younger and quicker, but the head part of the game goes to them."

With a clean slate and a new team,

expectations are high for the Pandas.

"Our expectations every year are to win a national championship," said Baker. "We want to compete in every game. That's how we approach it: game by game."

"I hope we can improve steadily throughout the season and hopefully peak at the right time," agreed Stolk. "My hopes are obviously to win a national championship."

The former Pandas are just the first hurdle on the way to that goal. One the entire team is committed to. Stolk figures it is a hurdle they can jump. "It'll be tight, but we'll pull it out in the end with our running game," she said.

Tip-off for the game is 3pm Saturday in the Main Gym.



FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

A NEW HOPE Fans can see the new-look Pandas for the first time this Sunday.

SPORTS SHORTS

Football

Week-five action in Canada West begins tomorrow at 7pm, when the Simon Fraser Clan (1-2) will try to recover from last week's loss to the Golden Bears when they visit the 0-3 Regina Rams. This is the first meeting of the two teams since the first round of the Canada West playoffs last season, when the eventual champion Clan won a 53-46 shootout. But this season both teams, particularly the Rams, are struggling, and a loss for either side will seriously damage their playoff positioning as they begin the last half of the regular season schedule.

The Clan may want to look to the fourth-ranked Saskatchewan Huskies (3-1) for inspiration, as the latter team has gone on a tear since losing to the Bears in week two. Huskies quarterback Steve Bilan has thrown nine touchdowns and no interceptions in the two games since that loss. Saturday at 1:30pm he and his teammates will host the 2-1 UBC Thunderbirds, who appear to have become serious playoff contenders since last year's 0-8 season.

Men's Soccer

The Golden Bears (1-1-2) dropped from first all the way to ninth on this week's CIS top ten list after last week's loss and tie at home. They'll try to get back on track this weekend in a home-and-home series with the last-place Saskatchewan Huskies (0-3-1).

The Calgary Dinos (1-0-2), tied with Alberta for fourth place and two points back of the leading trio, will have a chance to gain ground this weekend when they visit all three of the teams tied for first during a road trip through British Columbia. The unranked UBC Thunderbirds, tenth-ranked Victoria Vikes and fourth-ranked Trinity Western

Spartans all have 2-1-1 records heading into the weekend.

Men's Hockey

The annual Brick Invitational Hockey Tournament will be played tomorrow and Saturday at Clare Drake Arena. The tournament kicks off at 1pm tomorrow with the Grant MacEwan Griffins playing the Lethbridge Pronghorns. At 4pm the UBC Thunderbirds will face the Saskatchewan Huskies, and at 7:30pm the Golden Bears will entertain the Calgary Dinos. Saturday the Pronghorns and Thunderbirds will play in the early match, followed by the Huskies versus the Cougars and the Golden Bears versus the Griffins.

Women's Volleyball

The Pandas will be hosting a tournament of their own this weekend, with two games tomorrow and four games Saturday, all in the Main Gym. The Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks and UBC Thunderbirds will start things off tomorrow at 6pm, followed by the Pandas and Calgary Dinos at 8pm. The T-Birds and Dinos then play Saturday at 10am, followed by the Hawks and Pandas at noon, Hawks and Dinos at 6pm, and T-Birds and Pandas at 8pm.

Cross Country

Both the Golden Bears and Pandas will head to Saskatoon this weekend for the non-conference Huskie Open, hosted by the University of Saskatchewan. The Golden Bears are the fifth-ranked team in the country heading into the event, while the Pandas are unranked.

Ringette

The U of A Ringette Club will play an exhibition against the Edmonton Hornets Sunday at 1:15pm at Campbell Arena.

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Football needs to start evolving again



JAKE
TROUGHTON

Sports
Commentary

For a sport that owes its existence to a willingness to regularly introduce major rule changes, North American-style football has sure been stagnant as of late.

Now, that's not an entirely bad thing. It's a sign that people involved in the sport are satisfied with its state, and for the most part they should be. In both Canada and the United States, the game is as popular as ever in terms of both spectators and players, and games are generally competitive and entertaining. But contentment, as it so often does, seems to have led to complacency.

The CFL, for instance, hasn't made a major rule change involving regulation gameplay since 1975, when the two-point convert was introduced and blocking on punt returns was legalized. That's three decades of stagnation in this evolved sport.

Yes, the game is in good shape and rule changes aren't an urgent matter, but can anyone really believe that after a century of changes, football finally achieved perfection in 1975? It may be one of the best sports in the world, but that doesn't mean it couldn't be even better.

There was, after all, nothing wrong with the rugby-style game being played in North America in the 1870s and '80s—in fact, it was spreading quickly from university to university precisely because so many people

considered it the best game around. Yet some of the same people who were enthusiastically sharing the sport nonetheless saw fit to think up some new rules to see if they could come up with something that they'd like even more.

They didn't hold back. The creation of scrimmages and the down system are among the biggest rule changes ever made in any sport. Switching to a point system of scoring (as opposed to only counting goals from the field) was scarcely less monumental, as previously existing elements of the game like the safety touch and touchdown suddenly became much more important (previously, a touchdown had merely earned a team a "try at goal").

Yes, the game is in good shape and rule changes aren't an urgent matter, but can anyone really believe that after a century of changes, football finally achieved perfection in 1975?

Over the years, changes kept coming. The number of players on the field was reduced; forward passing was legalized; substitution rules were drastically liberalized; players were no longer required to touch the ball down to score a touchdown; and on and on it went as the North American style of football became a clearly distinct sport, as opposed to the rugby variant it had been.

Yet today, we've somehow reached


the point where minor tweaks of pass interference rules and the like are resisted as apparent affronts against "tradition." Occasionally, a brave sort will suggest a meaningful change to the game, but they're dismissed at best, ridiculed at worst. It's a puzzling situation, considering that the richest tradition football has is one of creativity and evolution.

That's certainly not to say that rules should be changed for the sake of change; not all rules are created equal. But new ideas should at least be considered. It's not like there are no areas where the game could potentially be improved. At the very least, it would be difficult to argue that the post-touchdown conversion isn't a glaring weak spot.


Perhaps the CFL, which has a lot of money at stake, can be forgiven for being somewhat cautious when it comes to the rulebook. CIS and other amateur leagues, though, who have essentially nothing to lose, should be more willing to take the initiative.

They could start by doing something about converts—perhaps bringing in rugby-style conversions, a kick from a point directly behind the point of the touchdown rather than simply an easy kick from in front of the goalposts. Then they might consider increasing the point value of drop-kicked conversions and field goals—the drop kick, which still exists within the rules but is no longer used, could be a great addition to the game if there were incentive to use it.

Whatever the ideas they might come up with, though, it is long past time for them to try something. Football is a sport built on change, and letting the game stagnate now is an injustice to its rich tradition.



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Information Session:
Thursday, October 7, 2004
L-3 Humanities Centre
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Thursday, 7 October, 2004 at 6pm
Alumni Room, Students' Union Building

Tentative agenda:

- Introductory remarks
- Approval of 2003-2004 GSJS Audit (Ellis, Govenlock LLP)
- Announcements
- Refreshments

All members (ie, those with three or more Gateway contributions in the 240 days prior to October 7th) are asked to attend. This meeting is also open to the public.

For more information, please contact the Chair of the Board of Directors at gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca or visit <http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsj/>

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THE STATS PAGE

Football

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PTS
Alberta	4	4	0	0	0	111	75	8
Saskatchewan	4	3	1	0	0	113	45	6
UBC	3	2	1	0	0	89	65	4
Simon Fraser	3	1	1	1	0	100	66	2
Calgary	3	1	2	0	0	51	77	2
/Manitoba	4	1	3	0	0	50	100	2
Regina	3	0	3	0	0	43	79	0

Note: 1 point awarded for an overtime loss

Week five schedule

Friday	Simon Fraser @ Regina 7pm
Saturday	UBC @ Saskatchewan 1:30pm
	Calgary @ Alberta 7pm

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Alberta (3)
2. Montréal (4)
3. Laurier (7)
4. Saskatchewan (5)
5. Laval (6)
6. Saint Mary's (1)
7. McMaster (2)
8. Ottawa (8)
9. Concordia (NR)
10. Western (NR)

Men's Soccer

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
UBC	4	2	1	1	10	4	7
Victoria	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
Trinity Western	4	2	1	1	6	6	7
Calgary	3	1	0	2	7	6	5
Alberta	4	1	1	2	8	6	5
Lethbridge	3	1	2	0	3	10	3
Saskatchewan	4	0	3	1	7	10	1

Note: 3 points awarded for a win

Schedule

Thursday	Calgary @ Trinity Western 8:15pm
	Lethbridge @ Victoria 9:15pm
Friday	Alberta @ Saskatchewan 2pm
Saturday	Calgary @ UBC 3:15pm
	Lethbridge @ Trinity Western 5:15pm
Sunday	Saskatchewan @ Alberta 2:15pm
	Calgary @ Victoria 3:15pm
	Lethbridge @ UBC 3:15pm

CIS top ten (last week)

1. Saint Mary's (3)
2. Montréal (2)
3. Carleton (5)
4. Trinity Western (6)
5. UPEI (6)
6. McGill (4)
7. Western (9)
8. UBC (10)
9. Alberta (1)
10. Victoria (NR)

Women's Hockey

Non-conference

Saturday	Alberta @ Grant MacEwan 8pm
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Women's Soccer

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Victoria	5	3	1	1	24	4	10
Trinity Western	5	3	1	1	19	8	10
UBC	5	3	1	1	12	2	10
Calgary	3	3	0	0	6	0	9
Lethbridge	5	3	2	0	16	9	9
Alberta	4	1	2	1	8	14	4
Saskatchewan	4	1	3	0	4	9	3
Regina	6	0	6	0	4	47	0

Note: 3 points awarded for a win

Results

Tuesday	Trinity Western 5	Regina 0
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Schedule

Today	Alberta @ Regina 4pm
	Calgary @ Trinity Western 6pm
	Lethbridge @ Victoria 7pm

Friday	Alberta @ Saskatchewan 4pm
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Saturday	Calgary @ UBC 1pm
	Lethbridge @ Trinity Western 3pm

Sunday	Saskatchewan @ Alberta 12pm
	Calgary @ Victoria 1pm
	Lethbridge @ UBC 1pm

CIS top ten (last week)

1. McGill (3)
2. UBC (1)
3. Western (6)
4. Ottawa (2)
5. Queen's (5)
6. Dalhousie (8)
7. Victoria (7)
8. Calgary (NR)
9. Laval (4)
10. UCCB (10)

Field Hockey

Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
UBC	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
Victoria	3	2	1	0	7	3	6
Alberta	3	1	2	0	4	5	3
Calgary	3	0	3	0	3	13	0

Note: 3 points awarded for a win

CIS top ten (first ranking of year)

1. UBC
2. Victoria
3. Toronto
4. Alberta
5. Guelph
6. Waterloo
7. Calgary
8. Saint Mary's
9. Western
10. York

Men's Hockey

Brick Invitational Tournament (Clare Drake Arena)

Friday	Calgary @ Alberta 7:30pm
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Saturday	Grant MacEwan @ Alberta 7:30pm
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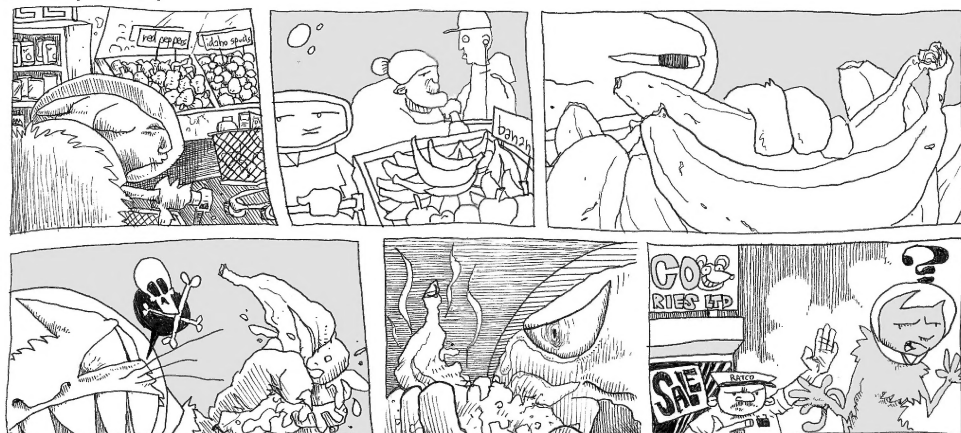
Non-conference (at Wainwright)

Sunday	Saskatchewan vs Alberta 4pm
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THEY CALL HIM CHAD by Mike Winters



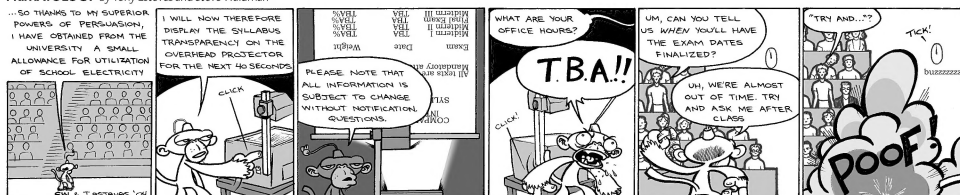
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